**Felling of trees in Arunachal Pradesh**

2883. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI HIPHEI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during' the last few years massive felling of trees in Arunachal Pradesh has greatly damaged the ecological balance of the region; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to recover the environment and for the preservation and conservation of flora and fauna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Govt, of Arunachal Pradesh have informed that there is no significant damage to ecological balance in the region due to massive felling of trees; however^ stray cases of illicit felling have been detected by the State Govt.

(b) For improvement o'f environment and conservation of flora and fauna, the State Govt, have taken up extensive tree plantation programmes/as per State Plans and Centrally Sponsored[1] Schemes, with active involvement of the local people. Forest protection activities have been intensified in wildlife sanctuaries for conservation of natural flora and fauna.

**Pine trees in Arunachal Pradesh**

2884. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI HIPHEI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of pine trees have been extinguished for hard tapping of pipe oil by the licences/businessmen in certain parts of Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KALP-NATH): (a) and (b) The Government of Arunachal Pradesh have reported mortality in four thousand Pine trees in West Kameng district last yesr. The reason for mortality has not been confirmed and the matter is under investigation. About four lakh trees are tapped for resin, each year, and the 'Rill' method of tapping has been introduced in 1992.

**Setting up of North-Western Himalayan Council**

2885. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHAR MA: Will the Minister of ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to consider to set up a North-Western Himalayan Council in the pattern of North-Eastern Council;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) the purpose of such a decision?

THE MINISTER. OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.